

Details of the electrification programme during 1996-97 Zone-wise are as under:

Zone	RKM
C.R.	-
E.R.	247
N.R.	46
S.E.R.	90
S.C.R.	179
S.R.	72
W.R.	-
	634

In the State of Maharashtra, electrification programme during 1996-97 is Nil. On completion of 634 Route Kilometre in 1996-97 there would be no backlog of the VIII Plan target.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Sambhal, U.P.

3016. SHRI D. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who have applied for telephone connections in Sambhal Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the number of persons provided with telephone connections so far;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government for the persons in the waiting list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons applied for telephone connections in Sambhal Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years in as given below :

1994-95	-	378
1995-96	-	732

(b) The number of persons provided with telephone connections so far is 934.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Waiting list is current except in Sambhal, Behjoi, Sirsi and Raja Ka Majhola. Expansion of exchange capacity has been planned at Sambhal by March, 97 and for other places mentioned above during 1997-98, to clear the waiting list.

[English]

Air Bus in Cochin Airport

3017. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether provision has been made for landing aircraft A-320 at Cochin Airport;

(b) if not, the time by which such provision is likely to be made; and

(c) the details of development made at Cochin and Calicut airports in Kerala during each of the last three years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The runway available at Cochin Airport is 6000 feet but it is a unidirectional runway and the available landing distance is only 5,645 feet. A Committee was set up to assess whether airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin airport could be carried out safely. This Committee has representatives from Director General of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines, CTE Hyderabad and Airports Authority of India. The Committee concluded that in view of the limited runway length, unidirectional operation, weather conditions, Airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin can be permitted provided certain conditions are met. The matter had been taken up by this Ministry with Indian Airlines, Airports Authority of India, Naval Authorities and Secretary, Transport Authorities, Kerala for providing requisite ground facilities at Cochin Airport.

(c) The details of the development made at Cochin and Calicut Airports in Kerala during the last three years and current year are as under:

Cochin

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has extended the existing apron at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.40 lakhs and the existing car parking area has been extended to cater to 100 cars at a time at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.25 lakhs.

Calicut

AAI has constructed a new International Terminal Building with 400 passengers capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.01 crores. The extension of runway from 6000 ft to 9000 ft is in progress and is expected to complete by January, 2000. The extension of apron to accommodate one AB-300 and 3 AB-320 class of aircraft at an estimated cost of about Rs. 89.88 crores is in progress and is expected to complete by November, 1997.